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November 6, 2003

Mr. Charles Jackson
Director, Department of Public Safety
Truman Building, Room 870
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

RE: Report of the Justice Information Sharing Subcommittee of the Criminal Records and
Justice Information Advisory Committee (CRJIAC)

Dear Director Jackson:

On behalf of the Justice Information Sharing Subcommittee of the Criminal Records and Justice Information Advisory Committee, I am pleased to submit the enclosed Statewide Justice Information Sharing Report. As you know, the subcommittee was charged with examining the status of justice information sharing in Missouri and identifying enablers and hindrances to the sharing of such information between elements of the justice community. To complete this charge, Tier Technologies and ACS Government Systems were engaged to conduct a study on information sharing in Missouri. In conducting the study, Tier met with representatives of state and local law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and the Department of Corrections. Tier mapped data exchange points between these elements of the criminal justice system and identified numerous points where business practices (whether required by statute, federal or state regulation, or internal operating policies) either enhance information sharing or hinder information sharing.

The findings of this study confirm what many of us believe – that problems regarding information sharing have as much to do with business practices and procedures as technological issues. It is further the belief of the subcommittee that before technological solutions can be implemented, the business process problems identified need to be addressed.

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I hope that the full Committee will be pleased with the work of the subcommittee and will find the report to be valuable in determining the appropriate next steps. I would encourage you to call a meeting of the full Committee at which this report can be presented and members of the Committee given the opportunity to ask questions. Although much remains to be done, it is my hope that this report will form the basis of a more robust and aggressive program of promoting criminal information sharing.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Buenger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more prominent.

Michael L. Buenger
State Courts Administrator

cc: Members, Subcommittee